Page 812

CHARLENE CARTER vs SOUTHWEST AIRLINES and TRANSPORT WORKERS

3:17-cv-02278-X Vol 3 July 07, 2022 Pages 812..815

1 A. Yes.

- 2 Q. And if anyone wanted to tell their union
- 3 president -- forget your views on abortion -- but if
- 4 you wanted to tell your union president, Don't spend
- 5 our money on organizations that support this, and
- 6 you wanted to protect a baby's life, can you think
- 7 of a more effective means of doing it? You have
- 8 cried every time you have talked about it. What is
- 9 more effective?
- 10 A. I don't think it was effective. I think it was
- 11 harassment and disturbing.
- 12 Q. It didn't change your view about abortion, did
- 13 it?
- 14 MR. GREENFIELD: Objection, your Honor,
- 15 relevance.
- 16 THE COURT: Sustained.
- MR. PRYOR: They asked her -- okay. 17
- 18 BY MR. PRYOR:
- 19 Q. It didn't change your view that a woman should
- 20 get to decide whether or not to have an abortion?
- 21 MR. McKEEBY: Objection, asked and 22 answered.
- 23 MR. GREENFIELD: Object to relevance.
- 24 THE COURT: Yeah, I will sustain that one.
- 25
- MR. PRYOR: I'm looking for an answer. 1
- She hasn't answered it.
- 3 THE COURT: I will let you ask it this one
- 4 last time.
- 5 THE WITNESS: Conversation would be more 6 effective.
- 7 MR. PRYOR: Thank you.
- THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Greenfield, round 8
- 9 two.
- 10 MR. GREENFIELD: No more questions, your
- 11 Honor.
- 12 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. McKeeby.
- 13 MR. McKEEBY: I will be quick.
- **RECROSS EXAMINATION** 14
- 15 BY MR. McKEEBY:
- 16 Q. Ms. Stone, do you recall yesterday when
- 17 Ms. Carter's counsel criticized you for not
- 18 responding to the historical Facebook messages
- 19 regarding -- they characterized as union activity?
- 20 MR. PRYOR: Object to ad hominem comments
- 21 and mischaracterizations.
- 22 THE COURT: Can you rephrase it?
- 23 MR. McKEEBY: I think I know what
- 24 ad hominem is, and I -- oh, union counsel. I see.
- 25 I get it now. No, that wasn't it. I didn't even

- 1 BY MR. PRYOR:
- 2 Q. Can you tell me a more effective means of

Page 813

Page 815

- 3 trying to tell someone that abortion is taking a
- 4 life than that -- I'm not saying you have to agree
- 5 with it -- can you think of a more effective means
- 6 of trying to convince someone that abortion is
- 7 taking a life than the actual video of the life that
- is being taken?
- 9 MR. GREENFIELD: Objection, relevance as 10 well.
- 11 THE COURT: I will allow that.
- 12 THE WITNESS: It was only effective in
- 13 upsetting me.
- 14 BY MR. PRYOR:
- 15 Q. I'm not asking --
- 16 A. -- making me feel harassed. It is not that I
- 17 think it is an effective tool. I don't think that
- 18 should be utilized.
- 19 Q. You don't think that -- can you tell us a more
- 20 effective means of doing it to convince someone --
- 21 something better than actual video, of me sitting
- 22 here and telling you statistics or anatomy lessons?
- 23 What is more effective than the video?
- 24 MR. GREENFIELD: Objection, your Honor,
- 25 asked and answered.

Page 814 1 notice that.

- 2 Let me start again.
- MR. PRYOR: Call me American Airlines 3
- 4 Counsel.
- 6 Q. Former counsel for American Airlines questioned
- 7 you yesterday and criticized you for not responding
- 8 to his client's historical emails, Facebook
- 10 MR. PRYOR: Now -- I'm sorry. I am
- 11 objecting to mischaracterization. That is not what
- 13 THE COURT: I think he's going after the
- 14 word "criticized."
- 15 Is that correct? Is there any word other
- 16 than "criticized" you can use to stop the objection?
- MR. McKEEBY: Sure. 17
- 18 BY MR. McKEEBY:
- 19 Q. Counsel for Ms. Carter yesterday questioned
- 21 emails, text messages -- excuse me -- Facebook
- 22 messages about union activity.
- 23 Do you recall that?
- 24 A. Yes.

- 5 BY MR. McKEEBY:

- 9 messages.

- 12 I did.

- 20 your failure to respond to his client's historical

- 25 Q. And today he's saying you should have blocked

CHARLENE CARTER vs SOUTHWEST AIRLINES and TRANSPORT WORKERS

3:17-cv-02278-X Vol 4 July 08, 2022 Pages 1262..1265

1 BY MR. PRYOR:

- 2 Q. And you have been involved in this issue.
- Have you seen anything, in your opinion, more
- 4 effective to explain what abortion is?
- 5 A. No, I haven't. As a matter of fact, there is a
- 6 whole group out there right now that -- it is not a
- 7 group, it is an organization -- that actually is
- 8 going up to people and asking questions about
- 9 abortion, and do -- you know, are you for it, are
- 10 you against it? And let me show you what happens.
- 11 And a lot of times, people, when they see
- 12 things like this, yeah, they are -- they had no
- 13 idea -- a lot of people don't understand what really
- 14 goes on and how big that baby really is and how much
- 15 it is formed in just a short amount of time. And it
- 16 is a baby. It is not just a clump of cells.
- 17 I mean, we can say the same thing for a little
- 18 puppy dog. I have got sonogram pictures of puppies
- 19 and I have got sonogram pictures of babies, and they
- 20 look a lot alike at the same stages.
- 21 Q. So when you sent the communications to Audrey
- 22 Stone TWU, did you believe you were speaking to your
- 23 union?
- 24 A. Yes. It had everything to do with the march.
- 25 Q. When you sent your video to Audrey Stone TWU,
 - Page 1264
- 1 the very last minute of the very last day to call 2 you. And --
- 3 Q. Were you waiting for it?
- 4 A. Yeah, I was waiting for it. I was waiting for
- 5 one or the other, you know, either I was fired or I 6 wasn't.
- 7 And they literally wait until 5:00. And the
- 8 phone finally rang and it was Ed Schneider, and he
- 9 read the letter that you put up, my -- the letter
- 10 that I was fired, and read it out loud to me.
- 11 And --
- 12 Q. What was your reaction?
- 13 A. Well, my husband was standing there. And he,
- 14 you know, he asked me if I had any questions, and I
- 15 said no. And I had Beth Ross on the other side,
- 16 because the union person was on the phone with me.
- 17 And I just fell to my -- I fell to the ground and
- 18 started crying.
- 19 Q. Did you pray?
- 20 A. Yeah, I did.
- 21 MR. PRYOR: Your Honor, this is a good
- 22 time to break for the week.
- Thank you, ma'am. 23
- 24 THE COURT: Sounds good to me.
- 25 Okay. So the same three instructions.

- Page 1262 1 did you believe you were also expressing your
 - 2 religious beliefs?
 - 3 A. Yes. I told God that I would never, ever stop
 - 4 fighting for life.
 - 5 Q. And we have just a few minutes, so I'm going to
 - 6 skip for now the fact-finding meetings.
 - But did you ever in your wildest dreams think
 - 8 that your 21-year employer would fire you for
 - 9 exercising your union rights?
 - 10 A. No.
 - 11 Q. Did you ever in your wildest dreams believe
 - 12 that Southwest Airlines would fire you for
 - 13 expressing your religious beliefs?
 - 14 A. No.
 - 15 Q. Do you remember where you were when the job you
 - 16 loved for 21 years and the company you helped build
 - 17 called you and told you what the results of your
 - 18 fact-finding hearing was?
 - 19 MR. McKEEBY: Objection, leading.
 - 20 THE COURT: I will sustain that. You can
 - 21 rephrase.
 - 22 BY MR. PRYOR:
 - 23 Q. Tell us about how you found out about the
 - 24 results and what happened.
 - 25 A. Well, it was almost 5:00, and they wait until

Page 1265

Page 1263

- 1 You can only talk to your fellow jurors and court
- 2 personnel, but not about this case; don't talk to
- 3 anyone else; and don't do any research about the
- 4 case.
- 5 We will see you back here at 8:45
- 6 tomorrow.
- 7 All rise for the jury.
- Sorry. You've got the weekend off. 8
- 9 Congratulations. We don't have the weekend off, but
- 10 y'all do. We will see you on Monday.
- 11 (The jurors exited the courtroom.)
- 12 THE COURT: Okay. So you can leave the
- 13 witness box, but don't leave the courtroom. I need
- 14 five minutes to finish up my research.
- 15 And then can we come back and talk about
- 16 witness instructions?
- 17 MR. McKEEBY: Your Honor, that's fine.
- THE COURT: I think it is an open question
- 19 because I have to figure out Schneider and Stone,
- 20 all at the same time. So the next five minutes,
- 21 don't talk about the case. But you may be able to
- 22 after that.
- 23 MR. HILL: I think they are actually
- 24 different answers, under Geders.
- 25 THE COURT: What's that?

Page 1298

CHARLENE CARTER vs SOUTHWEST AIRLINES and TRANSPORT WORKERS

3:17-cv-02278-X Vol 5 July 11, 2022 Pages 1298..1301

1 fact that I had so much stress in the

- 2 fight-and-flight response that it caused my blood
- 3 pressure to rise to an extreme level, and my heart
- 4 was doing racing and then stopping and then racing
- 5 and stopping. It was just constant.
- And physiology in your body, it changes
- 7 you. I was later diagnosed just by, from my
- 8 counselor, because I had to go to some counseling
- 9 for this, with a mild case of PTSD.
- 10 BY MR. PRYOR:
- 11 Q. Posttraumatic stress disorder associated with
- 12 losing your job?
- 13 A. Yeah. After 20 years --
- 14 MR. McKEEBY: Objection, leading, and it
- 15 also is asking the witness to render essentially an
- 16 expert opinion as to the causation of this PTSD.
- 17 THE COURT: Sidebar.
- 18 (Thereupon, the following proceedings were
- 19 had at sidebar:)
- THE COURT: Now state your objection.
- 21 MR. McKEEBY: My objection is that he's
- 22 asking her to link her PTSD to her employment. That
- 23 is something that an expert can do, but she is a lay
- 24 witness and she can't do that.
- And moreover, it's hearsay, because she's
 - Page 1300

- 1 BY MR. PRYOR:
- 2 Q. Did you understand that your condition was
- 3 stress-related?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Did you ever have a walking stroke before being
- 6 terminated by Southwest Airlines?
- 7 A. No. I never knew what it was.
- 8 Q. Did you -- did anyone ever tell you that you
- 9 had posttraumatic stress disorder until you were
- 10 terminated from American Airlines -- Southwest
- 11 Airlines?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. And did you have to go on medication?
- 14 A. I did. Blood pressure.
- 15 Q. Blood pressure medication?
- 16 Okay. Now, you talked about the impact on your
- 17 family, your daughter, your own health.
- ls there any amount of money we could offer you
- 19 to risk your life for this? If we said, Hey, we
- 20 will give you this money to go through this again?
- 21 A. No, not at all.
- 22 Q. If I offered you a million bucks, you would
- 23 take it?
- 24 A. To go through this again?
- 25 Q. Yes.

- Page 1299

 1 talking about what a doctor told her about that

 2 issue.
- 3 So it should be excluded on both of those 4 grounds, particularly the first.
- 5 MR. GREENFIELD: I would like to add in
- 6 also a hearsay objection that she's saying these
- 7 things as if they are true, but not -- not any sort
- 8 of mental impression or how she acted or actions she
- 9 took because of the information.
- 10 MR. PRYOR: PTSD, I simply defined what
- 11 the term meant. The other is her understanding of
- 12 her condition and what caused it.
- It's totally appropriate. If they want to
- 14 cross-examine her, they can.
- 15 THE COURT: I think it is offered for its
- 16 truth is the problem. So right now we are on to
- 17 damages, so it's a prove-up on damages. So I will
- 18 strike that.
- 19 MR. PRYOR: Okay.
- 20 (Thereupon, the sidebar was concluded and
- 21 the following proceedings were held in open
- 22 court:)
- THE COURT: Okay. So I am sustaining that
- 24 objection, striking that last question and answer.25
- 1 A. No.

Page 1301

- 2 Q. Let me ask about, did you try and get a job
- 3 while -- after you got fired?
- 4 A. I did, but I was also working on a business
- 5 venture as well. So I applied to Jet Blue, Delta,
- 6 and United. I had an interview with United. And
- 7 they turned me down. And then Delta never sent me
- 8 the link for the online video, and we still to this
- 9 day don't know why that happened.
- 10 Q. Did you apply with Frontier as well?
- 11 A. I did.
- 12 Q. Let me show you Exhibits --
- 13 MR. PRYOR: We move for the admission of
- 14 Exhibit 130 and Exhibit 42.
- 15 THE COURT: 130 and 42. Any objections to
- 16 130 or 42?
- 17 MR. GREENFIELD: None from the Union, your
- 18 Honor.
- 19 MR. McKEEBY: No objection.
- 20 THE COURT: Okay. They are admitted into
- 21 evidence and we are publishing.
- 22 (The referred-to documents were admitted
- into evidence as Trial Exhibits 130 and 42.)
- 24 BY MR. PRYOR:
- 25 Q. Ma'am, is Exhibit 130 a copy of your W-2?

Page 1398

CHARLENE CARTER vs SOUTHWEST AIRLINES and TRANSPORT WORKERS 3:17-cv-02278-X Vol 5 July 11, 2022

Pages 1398..1401

Page 1401

1 correct?

- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And your take-home pay that year was \$18,598?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. And this goes back to the issue that you raised
- 6 with Mr. Pryor that you weren't working -- you can
- 7 take those off -- you weren't working full-time.
- 8 A. No, at that time I couldn't. My husband was --
- 9 he was having to work more so on -- because I just
- 10 couldn't trust him with my daughter being at home at 11 that age.
- 12 Q. And let me talk a little bit about your efforts
- 13 to seek other employment.
- When you were -- I think you -- I don't 14
- 15 remember -- I'm getting them mixed up, too, in terms
- 16 of what you said today versus these other
- 17 proceedings, so my apologies if I blur some of this.
- But there was something called Project Purpose
- 19 that you were affiliated with in 2017?
- 20 A. That's correct. And that's when I was in
- 21 St. Louis. I homeschooled my daughter for the
- 22 last -- well, it's now been nine years. She's
- 23 graduated.
- 24 But I had a program that I was actually
- 25 implementing, and it had to do with the school

- Page 1399 1 systems in St. Louis and partly Aurora, Colorado, in
- 2 some of the poorer school districts. And it was an
- 3 after-school -- it started out as an after-school
- 4 program, and we were partnering with some churches
- 5 also in St. Louis.
- 6 Q. And you actually started working for Project
- 7 Purpose in January of 2017, before you left
- 8 Southwest, correct?
- 9 A. We started the project, but I wasn't working
- 10 for them. I was writing -- I was actually getting
- 11 the curriculum together for that.
- 12 Q. Right. And this was -- and then you actually
- 13 started working for them after your separation from
- 14 Southwest Airlines, fair?
- 15 A. Yeah. It became more of a -- yeah, it became
- 16 more of a -- yeah. A job. Yes.
- 17 Q. Right. But it was a not-for-profit in --
- 18 well --
- 19 A. Correct. It was a not-for-profit. We hadn't
- 20 gotten our 501(c)(3) yet, so we were just actually
- 21 scouting for who we were going to partner up with in
- 22 St. Louis and partly Aurora, Colorado, in some
- 23 schools and churches.
- 24 Q. Right. And you did not receive a salary from
- 25 Project Purpose for 2017?

Page 1400

- 1 A. No, I did not. As a matter of fact, I spent
- 2 money for that project.
- 3 Q. And because you were involved in this Project
- 4 Purpose, you did not -- you'd agree with me that you
- 5 did not seek paying employment at all in 2017,
- 6 correct?
- 7 A. I had put out resumés, but resumés were just to
- 8 the airlines, and then later on I got called by the
- 9 airlines.
- 10 Q. But that didn't happen in 2017, did it?
- 11 A. No. No. Unfortunately.
- 12 Q. That was later?
- 13 A. Yes, it was later. I think it was in '18 when
- 14 I started getting calls.
- 15 Q. And you indicated that you submitted
- 16 applications at four airlines?
- 17 A. Uh-huh. At my husband's airline. He's a
- 18 captain for Frontier. And then it was Jet Blue.
- 19 Never heard from Jet Blue. And then Delta and 20 United.
- 21 Q. And I think you've indicated -- and I know this
- 22 was in your deposition -- that you have done some
- 23 Pilates instruction?
- 24 A. Yes. That was later on. Yes.
- 25 Q. How much, approximately, did you earn and over

- 1 what period of time?
- 2 A. Well, I finished class and COVID hit and they
- 3 closed all of the Pilates studios.
- 4 Q. Are you still doing that?
- 5 A. I'm doing it, but it's only part-time, and it's
- 6 mainly in my house. I have a Pilates studio in my 7 home.
- 8 Q. How much have you earned from that?
- Let's start with maybe 2021, how much did you
- 10 earn, approximately?
- 11 A. Well, '21 was pretty much a no-go because of
- 12 COVID. I would say maybe 5, \$6,000. Maybe.
- 13 Q. In 2022?
- 14 A. No, not in '22. Well, '21 into '22. So give
- 15 or take, it would be about, maybe, 5,000, maybe.
- 16 That is a stretch.
- 17 Q. I just want to make sure I understand. That's
- 18 in 2021 or is that for both years?
- 19 A. Well, it would be both years right now.
- 20 Q. Am I right that since your separation from
- 21 Southwest, other than the four airline applications
- 22 that you've submitted, you have not applied for any
- 23 other paying employment?
- 24 A. No, I didn't. No, I didn't. There was another
- 25 project, though. I don't know if you saw that. But

CHARLENE CARTER vs SOUTHWEST AIRLINES and TRANSPORT WORKERS 3:17-cv-02278-X Vol 5 July 11, 2022

Pages 1402..1405

Page 1403

Page 1405

Page 1402 1 it was called Divine Intervention, after Project

- 2 Purpose.
- 3 Q. I did see that. That's another not-for-profit
- 4 that you were associated with?
- 5 A. Yes. And we did -- we ended up -- it's
- 6 basically the same thing except that we -- there
- 7 were two partners. We branched off from what
- 8 Project Purpose was, and we were working with
- 9 actually several places in St. Louis. We weren't
- 10 really working again working in Aurora.
- 11 We did get our 501(c)(3), but there were some
- 12 issues with -- how should I put this? -- there were
- 13 some issues between what the two visions were and
- 14 they didn't coincide, and so I stepped away from 15 that.
- 16 And I spent money in that as well.
- 17 Q. You did not receive any income for --
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. -- work at Divine Intervention?
- 20 A. No, I did not.

1 BY MR. McKEEBY:

- 21 Q. I'm flipping through these pages. That's good
- 22 news for you.
- 23 Ms. Carter, do you regret your decision not to
- 24 accept Southwest's offer of reinstatement?
- 25 A. No, I don't, for the same reasons that I have

- 1 explained.
- 2 Q. If Southwest wanted to get rid of you because
- 3 you were a union objector, does it make sense that
- 4 they would offer your job back?
- 5 A. I'm not sure, except the fact that I had
- 6 presented them with so much evidence.
- 7 Honestly, Mike Sims knows and we had talked
- 8 about this off the record. He said that Southwest
- 9 shouldn't have gotten involved in union business.
- 10 Q. And --
- 11 A. He used to be in the union. He was one of --
- 12 he actually worked in the union at one point.
- 13 Q. I understand that.
- 14 But my question for you is, why would Southwest
- 15 have offered you a job back if it was trying to
- 16 target you and get rid of you because you were an
- 17 objector?
- 18 MR. PRYOR: Object, just asked and
- 19 answered.
- 20 MR. McKEEBY: I didn't get an answer.
- 21 THE COURT: I will allow this question to
- 22 be answered.
- 23 THE WITNESS: Honestly, I think they knew
- 24 that they had messed up and that they were going to
- 25 make sure that I stayed quiet about it.

Page 1404

1

- 2 Q. And the same question about your religious
- 3 beliefs. If Southwest had some objection to your
- 4 religious beliefs, why would they have offered you a
- 5 job back?
- 6 A. Again, I think they knew they had messed up and
- 7 they wanted -- they didn't want me to talk about it
- 8 at all.
- 9 Q. So instead --
- 10 A. And you can tell, they were taking away my
- 11 right to come back and sue them for this.
- 12 Before I signed this, I read over it and over
- 13 it and over it. There was a point that I did think
- 14 that I was going to take it. But, again, I talked
- 15 to Beth Ross, and Beth Ross said, This is an
- 16 egregious settlement and, you know, other people are
- 17 getting turned in, Charlene.
- So I -- I -- my personal feeling was I'm going
- 19 to get targeted again and I'm going to lose my job,
- 20 and then I won't have any recourse.
- 21 MR. McKEEBY: Pass the witness.
- THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. McKeeby. 22
- 23 Okay. Mr. Greenfield, you may question
- 24 the witness.

25

- CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 2 BY MR. GREENFIELD:
- 3 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Carter.
- 4 A. Good afternoon.
- 5 Q. Do you recognize who I am?
- 6 A. Yes. I do.
- 7 Q. Who am I?
- 8 A. You are Adam Greenfield.
- 9 Q. Okay. And what is my job?
- 10 A. You are representing the Union.
- 11 Q. Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am, I do so proudly.
- 12 Your case has been going on for a handful of
- 13 years at this point, is that fair?
- 14 A. Yes, it has, five, a little over five.
- 15 Q. So we've had the opportunity to meet each
- 16 other?
- 17 A. Yeah. The first time I met you was coming in
- 18 to court. We were talking about your cute socks.
- 19 Q. I remember the exact day. And you and I
- 20 believe Ms. Dawn Juan were putting on your shoes.
- 21 A. Yes. They were Christmas socks.
- 22 Q. Yes, ma'am.
- 23 And how would you describe our interactions,
- 24 you and I?
- 25 A. You're an attorney and I'm the plaintiff.